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munication and without definition of the mutual rights of would-be users of these agencies, it may soon come to pass that a denial of mutual rights may be the cause of war or of an alliance calculated to cripple in an economic and industrial way the recalcitrant and selfish nation operating for monopolistic ends a given cable or radio line.

The United States at the present time is making a stiff fight for recognition of the principle of mutuality. If it is defeated, it will harden its heart against powers that defeat its purpose, and it will start in to construct its own intercontinental systems of communication, and in the meantime make it as uncomfortable as possible for nations that wish to use American terminals for cable landings and radio stations. The United States is not asking for any of the spoils taken from Germany, but it does not intend to let the Allies, with whom it fought and who are quite willing to take Germany's former property, turn right round and use the resources put within their power to injure the United States and make it a suppliant for their favor in intercontinental business.

DEFLATION AND ITS PRIVATIONS

SOMETIMES POVERTY, or the threat of it, is a blessing. At last the superwealthy United States is beginning to reef its economic sails, tighten its belt, and count its dollars in terms of thousands, not millions or billions. The "plunging" period is over. The wisest men of the nation are sitting down to see how a panic may be avoided. Inflated values are being punctured by the grim necessities of the hour. Prices to the consumer really are falling now, and producers who are hard hit in the process of deflation and because of inability to sell their goods abroad are squealing in their pain and asking Uncle Sam to carry them to an island of economic safety under his arm. If Uncle Sam is wise, he will not do it.

Feeling thus, legislative appropriations are being studied with unusual care, because State and national treasuries are facing deficits. Severest forms of economies are being recommended by officials who study possible sources of income and who can estimate with some degree of accuracy the costs of the essentials of administration that must go on if the State's bare machinery is to function. The call goes forth for elimination of the luxuries and non-essentials; and it is gratifying to see that in New York State, where Governor Miller hints that he will cut down estimates one billion dollars, they are seriously considering scrapping the year-old scheme of compulsory military education

of the State's male youth. War does not seem so essential an industry as it did while we were in it. As to the demand in Congress for a drastic cutting down of naval and military expenditures, we comment in another column. You cannot eat your cake and have it too. You cannot spend billions and then get prosperity by any other plan than by making good the losses through toil and sacrifice.

CANADA EMERGES

CANADA'S EXPERIENCES during the South African War and the recent war have taught her much. She has stopped at no sacrifice of men or wealth to carry out successfully, on a military scale, combats to which she deemed herself morally pledged by her ties as a loyal daughter. Nevertheless, they were sacrifices caused by policies which she had no part in shaping. They proved her obedience to Downing Street—glad obedience if you please so to term it; but they were based on no previous assent of hers to the imperial policies of Mr. Chamberlain in his day or of Mr. Balfour and Mr. Lloyd-George in their day.

The late war, with its grim horrors, the denudation throughout her sparsely settled territory of her finest youth, the huge increase of the national debt, the ceaseless friction with British officials, military and civilian, and the possible implications of the Dominion in later wars—these things sent to the Paris Peace Conference a group of men determined to assert Canadian nationalism as it never had been asserted before. This, ably led by Sir Robert Borden, they proceeded to do.

At the meeting of the Assembly of the League in Geneva now sitting, they have made it clear again that Canada, as a constituent of the British domain, has ceased to be a daughter and has come rather to be a sister. In other words, they have asserted the Canadian point of view in distinction from the British; they have won a place in the League that has made them independent, and they have taught the English and Scotch, as well as the French and the Italians, that the New World of America has bred another and second variety of Anglo-Celt, differing from the kind bred by generations of residence in the islands off the coast of western Europe or in the United States. Precisely as the Canadian troops fought in their own way, so did the Canadian representatives at Paris, and more recently at Geneva, negotiate in their own way.

We doubt whether there has been a more dramatic and significant moment in latter-day British history than when, at the Geneva Conference, Mr. Balfour and Mr. Fisher, of the British Cabinet, sitting in the Council, had to sit and hear themselves, as representatives of

Great Britain, indicted before the bar of the assembled nations as guilty, along with other European statesmen, for the recent war and as supporters of a sort of diplomacy, statecraft, and imperialistic militarism for which Canada would not stand and which she does not propose to accept—and this indictment by one of Canada's leading political leaders, who, by the way, is a leading Christian layman of the Dominion and a promoter of social reforms. We refer to Mr. N. W. Rowell, of Ontario.

Nor is it without considerable significance that again and again at the Geneva Conference, the United States being unrepresented, the Canadian delegates have presumed to speak not only for Canada, but for public opinion in the United States on definite concrete propositions. It was informal, to be sure, and without any official warrant, but grew out of the propinquity of the two countries. Their common, democratic political ideals and customs, their substantial agreement as populations with the same pioneering experience and the same economic problems, and last, but not least, the fact that, living side by side for more than a century, Canada and the United States have kept the peace without forts on their borders and armed craft in their waters—these facts enabled Canada to speak freely.

The notice which Canada is serving on the world at the present time, that she will not be party to European nations' politics, diplomacy, and territorial ambitions, and that she sympathizes with the United States in her disinclination to become entangled in a hard-and-fast compact dealing with boundaries and nationalistic ambitions will have a repercussion far beyond the halls at Geneva. Downing Street will consult Ottawa oftener, will play the game with more of the cards on the table, and will realize that while she has lost a daughter she also has won a sister who thinks for herself and who hates war. The United States will be heartened by understanding that at Ottawa there is to be a government hereafter that thinks more in New World than in Old World terms, and that can be won, perchance, in the course of time to an All-Americas' policy based on modes of settling international disputes without force; for South America also has shown at Geneva that it is against control of the League by the dominant powers of Europe.

Yet another rôle seems to be opening up for Canada. It was hinted at in a recent speech by Ambassador Geddes, who has arrived in the New World at a time when relations between Great Britain and the United States are somewhat strained, though not to the extent seemingly that they are between Great Britain and France. Ambassador Geddes has suggested that if ever

the Anglo-American situation becomes acute, the New Canada, with its mounting nationalism and independence, and with its close educational, literary, commercial, and industrial ties with the United States, as well as its sentimental ties with Great Britain, could well be relied upon to mediate any dispute. The Canadian knows John Bull. He also knows Brother Jonathan. Neither London nor Washington are going to be able ever again to treat Ottawa with the condescending superiority of a fond parent or a rich neighbor; which fact, of itself, is a wholesome sign for tomorrow.

THE MATTER OF DISARMAMENT

IT SHOULD cause no surprise that the question of the universal reduction of armaments should be a matter of concrete concern to all nations. Some form of armament limitation, at least, is now imperative. The Financial Conference at Brussels, through its committee on public finance, issued a series of resolutions, in one of which occurs the significant passage which Lord Robert Cecil saw fit to quote in his address before the Assembly of the League of Nations in Geneva, November 17. The passage reads:

"It is, therefore, imperative that every government should, as the first social and financial reform on which all others depend, restrict its ordinary recurrent expenditure, including the service of the debt, to such an amount as can be covered by its ordinary revenue; rigidly reduce all expenditure of armaments in so far as such reduction is compatible with the preservation of national security; abandon all unproductive extraordinary expenditure and restrict even productive extraordinary expenditure to the lowest possible amount. The Supreme Council of the Allied Powers, in its pronouncement of March 8th, declared that armies should everywhere be reduced to a peace footing and armaments reduced to the lowest possible figure compatible with national security, and that the League of Nations should be invited to consider as soon as possible proposals to this end. The statements presented to the conference show that on the average some 20 per cent of the national expenditures is still being devoted to the maintenance of armaments and preparations for war. The conference desires to affirm that the world cannot afford this expenditure. Only by a frank policy of mutual co-operation can the nations hope to regain their old prosperity, and in order to secure that result the whole resources of each country must be devoted to strictly productive purposes. The conference accordingly recommends most earnestly to the Council of the League of Nations the desirability of conferring at once with the several governments concerned with a view to securing a general and agreed reduction of the crushing burden which, on their existing scale, armaments still impose on the impoverished peoples of the world, sap-